

The Affordable Care Act – What It Means for School Communities

The US Department of Education is working to make all schools healthier and safe. To help states, districts, and schools ensure healthy schools and students, the Department encourages school communities to make use of exciting new provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act contains important benefits to improve the health care system, and is already making a difference in the lives of millions of Americans, including our nation's neediest school communities. Most important, new provisions of the law will allow school communities to focus on the important work of learning, rather than the cost of health care.

To get all of America's schools covered, the Health Insurance Marketplace begins with YOU. Learn how the Affordable Care Act offers important reforms to improve the health of every school community.

New Health Insurance Marketplace Key Facts:

- Marketplace open enrollment for 2014 ends March 31, 2014. If you missed the deadline, the next open enrollment will begin in the fall of 2014, but the exact dates are still being decided.
- You may be eligible to get lower costs right away to help you pay for insurance in the Marketplace (individuals with incomes less than \$45,960 or families of four with incomes less than \$94,200).
- For more information, visit HealthCare.gov.

Schools are the centers of our communities. Every family, neighbor, educator, health care provider, and business knows the importance of well-educated and healthy children for a successful 21st century economy. The Affordable Care Act makes important investments to increase health care access in every school community.

The healthcare law:

- Expands and modernizes community health centers across the country to serve up to 20 million more patients.
- Brings more primary care providers to our neediest school communities by tripling the size of the National Health Service Corps, which offers loan repayment and scholarships for serving in areas that most need health care providers.
- Improves funding for Area Health Education Centers, which serve the primary care needs of rural and other underserved communities, and expands tele-health services, so more rural Americans can access specialty care.

To learn more about the new benefits and cost savings available to you, visit HealthCare.gov. A first-of-its-kind website, HealthCare.gov helps you make informed decisions about health care coverage by offering easy-to-understand information about new benefits and protections for you, your family, and your business and allowing you to compare public and private health insurance options tailored to your age, location, and health needs.

Remember, getting America's schools covered begins with **YOU!**

Let's create healthier schools and communities so our children can reach their full potential.